

# SIGNATURE DESTINATIONS

## PARK OF THE CANALS

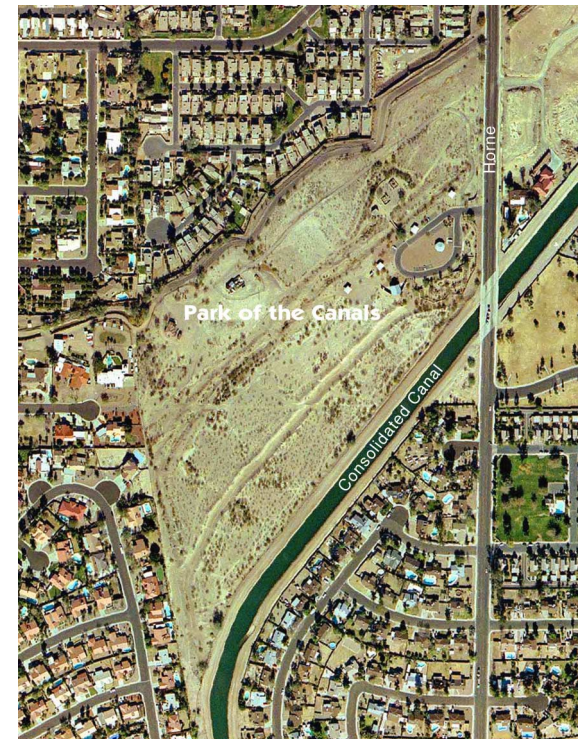
This archaeological site is already a destination complete with restrooms and shade ramadas. Information on the Park of the Canals could be incorporated in an interpretive form for the Multi-Use Path to promote interest in the park and build awareness of all archaeological sites linked to the Canal Pathways.

Placemaking for this site should include investigating the feasibility of creating a south-side entrance to the park, allowing path users to enter from the canal bank.

***Promote interest in  
Park of the Canals  
and build awareness  
of all archaeological  
sites linked to the  
canal pathways.***



PARK OF THE CANALS, AS SEEN FROM THE CANAL



PARK OF THE CANALS, AERIAL VIEW

**RECOMMENDATION:** Create a modest rest stop at this location that stimulates interest in the park and other archaeological sites. Interpretive information could include information about the Old Utah Canal and wayfinding elements that link this site to other historic and prehistoric points of interest.

# SIGNATURE DESTINATIONS

## SOUTH CANAL



The South Canal provides a beautiful and compelling gateway to the desert for Mesa residents who find themselves drawn to the profile of Red Mountain and to the smell of creosote and sagebrush. The South Canal, from Lehi to the Granite Reef Dam, has a character distinct from the rest of Mesa's Canal System. The Lehi

community is steeped in traditional agricultural roots. Residents of the area value their connection to the canal, both aesthetically and symbolically.

Many people choose to live in Lehi because it is a good place to keep and ride horses. The South Canal provides a picturesque

riding trail with an authentic connection to traditional agricultural practices. South Canal is being developed to accommodate the typical multi-modal traffic and equestrians alike. The best way to accomplish this will be to provide a wide shoulder on the outside edge of the paved path whenever possible.

## LEHI CURVE ACCESS



The first signature site to be recommended for the South Canal is located at the intersection of Lehi Road and the Canal. This is a particularly

beautiful spot where a mature cottonwood shades an irrigation diversion that flows into a waterfall leading to an unlined lateral ditch.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Explore the feasibility of providing a trailhead with horse-friendly slopes at this location. If equestrian access is not practical here, then develop as a resting place.



# SIGNATURE DESTINATIONS

## CRISMON PROPERTY

### SALT RIVER PROJECT'S SOUTH-CON HYDROELECTRIC PLANT SPILLWAY

Crismon Property, Shepherders Park, and the Salt River Project's South Con Hydroelectric Plant converge along the South Canal. The educational potential of this convergence is considerable. It is a high-priority site that should be developed thoughtfully. The following quote from the Freeman/Whitehurst Public Art Master Plan describes its physical and historical significance:

*"Mesa has not celebrated the landform for which it is named: the mesa itself... at the edge of the mesa is a bluff that descends from the tabletop down to the river valley. A place of historical significance, the bluff recalls the original settlements—both Hohokam and Mormon... While the mesa has been obscured along most of its edge, there is one location where most of the historical and developmental themes can be marked, interpreted and celebrated. At the entrance to Shepherders Park (a place that marks a colorful bit of Mesa history) and at the entrance to the adjacent Salt River Project substation, there is a rough triangle of land... We propose that the city of Mesa, working in partnership with the Salt River Project and the Mesa Historical Society, use a design team including an artist, historian and landscape architect to create an interpretive plaza on this triangle of land."*  
*imagine Mesa, pp 18-19*



CRISMON PROPERTY ORCHARD

The Crismon Property that borders the South Canal has been producing fruit in the desert for nearly a hundred years.

***There is one location where most of the historical and developmental themes can be marked, interpreted and celebrated.***



WATERFALL AT SOUTH-CON HYDROELECTRIC PLANT



# SIGNATURE DESTINATIONS

## CRISMON PROPERTY

**RECOMMENDATION:** This site has tremendous potential to become an important park destination for canal users and other Valley residents. Development of this site will require a collaboration between the City, SRP, and the federal government.

1. **Design:** The Public Art Program should commission an artist with solid design experience to take on a significant role in this project. The team should also include a historian with interpretive expertise, and landscape architects, as well as engineers. The Crismon/SRP site offers an unparalleled opportunity for a park that truly celebrates Mesa's canal legacy.
2. **Implementation:** The Public Art Program should consider directing a significant dollar amount to the implementation of the project. A dedicated art budget will enable the selected artist to create a piece that goes beyond the basic design requirements. Possible focus for the arts implementation could be to get viewers closer to the water (e.g. safety cages), or to bring water into the site, drawing on the language of irrigation methods.



CRISMON PROPERTY, AERIAL VIEW

Interpretive programming for this site could include a discussion of hydroelectric power generation, current and historical agricultural practices, water distribution, and system maintenance considerations. Some of these topics would lend themselves to interactive water-play elements.

# SIGNATURE DESTINATIONS

## ROOSEVELT WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT (RWCD) PUMPING PLANT

This vintage facility is the headgate for the RWCD canal. It is significant because it is an alternative to the Salt River Project. The scale and architecture of the RWCD complex reveals a different aesthetic than most of the existing SRP structures.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Modest rest stop with shade on north side of canal. Possible seating, bike pull-off, and interpretive/wayfinding information.



RWCD HEADGATES

## RIVER ROAD SIPHON

Located on the South Canal, 2 miles east of Val Vista Road. The intermittent wash that crosses the canal at this point is a thriving habitat for desert wildlife.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Artist-led design of a modest response to site dynamics. Possible seating/wayfinding and interpretive signage explaining the hydrodynamics of the siphon and the wash and calling attention to the wildlife crossing.



RIVER ROAD CROSSING, SOUTH CANAL



# SIGNATURE DESTINATIONS

## HENNESSY DRAINAGES



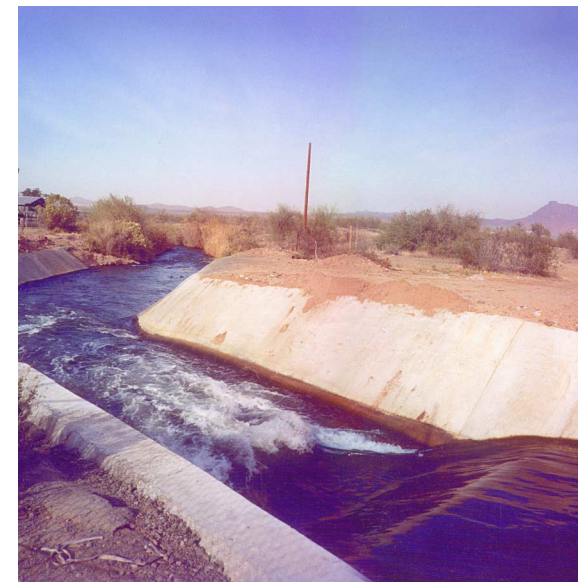
HENNESSY DRAINAGES, BRIDGE AND RED MOUNTAIN

The Hennessy Drainages can be seen as the point where agriculture tapers off and the desert begins. As such, it could become a place to appreciate the lay of the land and the undeveloped views to the east.

These drainages divert a considerable amount of water from the main canal. The visual interest of the split is increased by the existing small bridge that affords an interesting vantage point of the sluice as well as a clear view of Red Mountain.

**RECOMMENDATION 1:** Artist-led design of rest stop that responds to conditions on site and includes interpretive exploration of water distribution and land use.

**RECOMMENDATION 2:** Discontinue typical pathway lights at this point to help protect the undeveloped quality of this "last stretch" of canal leading through the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Reservation to the Granite Reef Dam.



HENNESSY DRAINAGES, SLUICE



# SIGNATURE DESTINATIONS

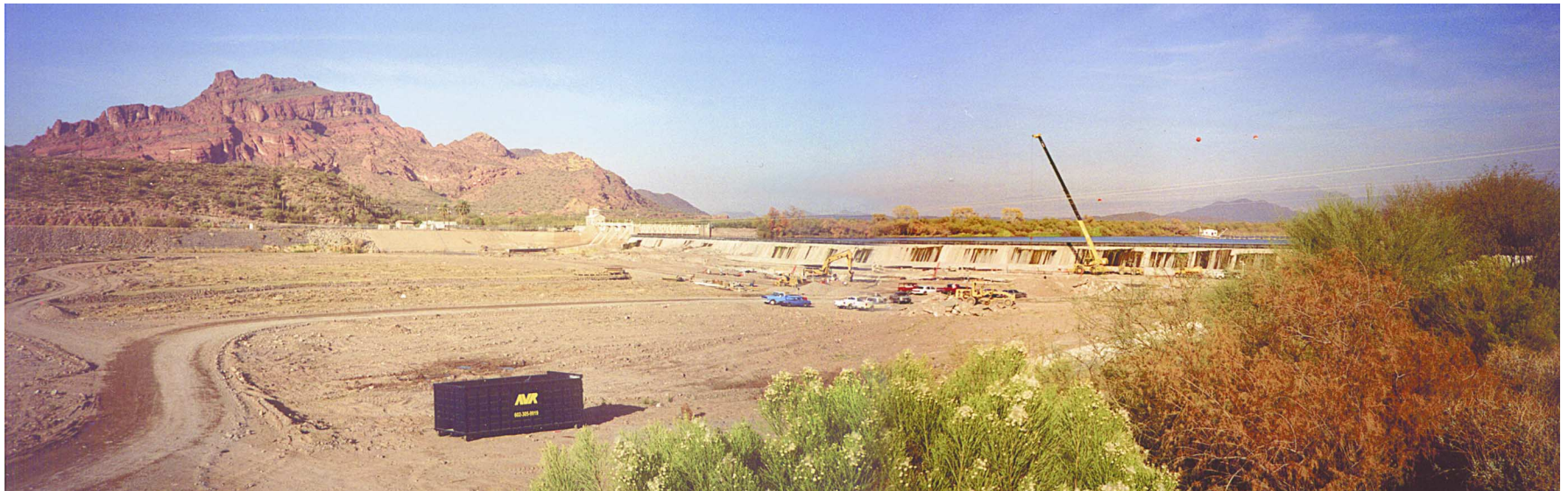
## GRANITE REEF DAM

This long, low, concrete dam was constructed at the turn of the century. Its completion marked the end of the free-flowing Salt River and the beginning of the new era of engineered canals. The dam forms a reservoir and diversion point, feeding water farther north and west than before via the Arizona Canal.

The continuing saga of the control of water in Arizona intensified with the construction of the Central Arizona Project (CAP) aqueduct in the 1980s. This large-scale canal diverts water from the Colorado River 336 miles into Central Arizona. The CAP aqueduct siphons under the Salt River at this point, but has been engineered to have the ability to feed Valley canals.



GRANITE REEF DAM, AERIAL VIEW



GRANITE REEF DAM



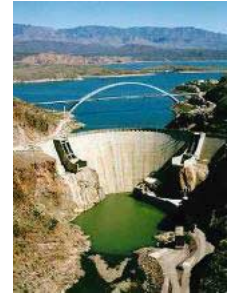
# SIGNATURE DESTINATIONS

## GRANITE REEF DAM



GRANITE REEF DAM DRAINAGES

Construction of the Granite Reef Dam and the Roosevelt Dam were tandem efforts to control the unpredictable Salt River. Mesa played an important role as the major supply route for both of these monumental projects. The dams still provide a dependable flow of water throughout the Valley.



ROOSEVELT DAM

**RECOMMENDATION:** This powerful and beautiful site could be developed as a signature destination with many layers of interpretation. It would be advisable to master plan this site in conjunction with SRP and a design team, including an artist, a historian and a landscape architect.



GRANITE REEF DAM SPILLWAY



# SIGNATURE DESTINATIONS

## MESA GRANDE RUINS

Studies are underway to make this important Hohokam site available for the public. Improvements to the site are being considered in the master plan being developed for Mesa Lutheran Hospital campus improvements. Mesa Grande is very close to the Tempe Canal; however, direct access to the canal has recently been restricted.

### RECOMMENDATION:

Long-range plans for Mesa's Multi-Use Paths should include connecting the ruins to the nearby Tempe Canal and extending the connection to link with the path being planned for the Eureka Canal, which in turn links with the Westwood High School campus.



MESA GRANDE RUINS



MESA GRANDE RUINS, AERIAL VIEW



# LINKAGES

Mesa's Canal Pathways are a part of the larger network of bicycle and pedestrian corridors that traverse the City. To be successful, the system must be legible and accessible. It makes good sense to install signage and other identifying features that will underscore the presence of the paths. The overall bicycle and pedestrian system strives to provide links between:

- Neighborhoods
- Parks
- Schools
- Downtown
- Work destinations
- Public transportation
- Neighboring municipalities

Any features that highlight these linkages will bolster pedestrian and bicycle activity throughout the City. Visual reminders that the path system provides important physical links will help people envision alternative routes that may work for their transit needs.

The following recommendations build on concepts and practices that are being initiated by City divisions other than the Arts and Cultural Division. They are included in this plan because the success of the overall system will further the success of the canal pathways and the objectives of Mesa's Public Art Program.



BICYCLE RACK

***Visual reminders that the path system provides important physical links will help people envision alternative routes that may work for their transit needs.***